

[Mrs. SMITH of Washington addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### CAN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF AMERICA?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. WAMP] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to ask a series of questions and to make some statements, and the first question is: Can the Federal Government solve the problems of America? You know, I asked that question as I campaigned for the last 4 years.

I really believe the average person out there in this country does not think for a minute that the Federal Government is going to solve the problems that we have in this country, and there is a tremendous amount of misinformation and disinformation.

I returned to Washington today from Chattanooga, TN, my home, and I can tell you from being there this weekend that this issue has outraged so many people who know better and know that there is some untruth being told. The words "cutting" and "eliminating" are being used over and over again on editorial pages all across this country. It has gotten so out of hand that small children are writing letters to Members of Congress. I am sure at the instruction of their teachers or maybe even their parents, saying, "Mr. Congressman, please, don't cut my lunches. Please, don't eliminate the food from my table."

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And another question I have tonight is, who is actually taking advantage of children here? When you ask small children who don't know any better to write a letter to their Congressman with the threat that you are going to take food off of their plate in front of them and they are not explaining to these children what the truth is.

You know block grants is what we are talking about. Decentralization is what we are talking about. It is a recognition that things are not working, things have not been working. Federal Government got too big, too powerful, out of control. It is outrageous, and we are trying to block grant these dollars back to the State and the local governments.

You know, Al Harris runs the Chattanooga housing authority in my home city, and does an outstanding job there. They are concerned. Let me tell you what he says about block grants. He says block grants work. He says, "Send the money down, unleash the shackles. We got too many rules, too many regulations, too much bureaucracy. Send us the money. We can produce." He looks at this as a good thing, as decentralizing the Federal

Government and sending the money on down.

I heard in church Sunday morning a teacher in Hamilton County, Tennessee, said, We have got problems with school lunch programs. Those people who are in need are not getting the services because people who do not qualify are abusing the system. People are applying for and receiving free lunches in our schools and they drive up in about BMW's to let their kids off in the morning. You know why that happens? Because this is a big Federal bureaucracy micromanaged out of Washington, DC, and every time we have turned these programs over to the Federal Government they have got out of hand. Fraud sets in and money is wasted and people do without.

In about 2 weeks, this House, I believe this majority, will vote to put \$500 in the pocket of every child in this country whose parents are working and paying taxes. That is the kind of child relief—that is the kind of child support that we need to be engaged in, and there is more help on the way. We are sending this money back to the States. We are not cutting or eliminating anything, and my colleagues have said that over and over again.

What I think this really boils down to is whether or not we trust our State and our local governments, because I do not believe the liberals in this country will acknowledge that our States and our local governments have done a better job than we have done up here in Congress for the last 30 years.

You know, they are balancing their budgets at home. They are responsible. They have got their priorities in order. They are not about to go out and borrow money with a credit card like these voting cards here. The worst and most expensive credit card in the history of the world here is the credit card that Members of Congress use to vote in this Chamber, moneys that they do not have, and it is out of hand. We have got to do something about it.

So let us send the money back to the responsible governments, the State and the local governments. I know in my home State that our governor and our State legislature is going to do the right thing with these moneys when we block grant them back there, and if your program is good, you will get more money, not less money, through block grants and then you won't have the Federal Government breathing down your throat on everything.

I want to close with a statement I know you have heard before but we need to remember it right now, 1995, while this country is at risk. A government big enough to give you everything you want is a government big enough to take from you everything you have.

Patriotic, freedom-loving Americans need to recognize that our Federal Government is out of control. We have got more government than our Founding Fathers ever wanted. We have got more government on a Federal level,

more micromanagement, more bureaucrats, more waste, fraud and abuse than I ever wanted to deal with, and we are up here trying to do something about it and they are not telling the truth.

Now, if we are going to have a legitimate dialog in this country about what is best for our children and our future, let us at least be honest. We are not running campaigns anymore. That comes up next year. You know, we knew when we got into it you would not tell the truth about us in our campaigns. That is part of campaigning. This is lawmaking. This is serious business.

Let us at least tell the country the truth on this issue of block grants because this is the beginning of downsizing the Federal Government, returning the power and the money to the States that have acted responsibly.

#### THE SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. WHITFIELD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, when the school lunch program was started back in 1946, the research that I have done indicates that the program cost about \$70 million that year, and the projections indicate that by the year 2000 the food programs in the United States will be approaching \$7 billion.

Now, when you talk about hunger in America, I want to emphasize this evening that those of us on this side of the aisle are just as concerned about the welfare of children throughout America as those people on the other side of the aisle. They certainly do not have any sole discretion about and concern for the needs of children around this country.

But when you have a program, and I might also add that in addition to this school lunch program, there are thousands of programs out there to provide help to American citizens, and that is part of the problem, because you cannot solve a \$4.7 trillion deficit problem in America without coming up with new approaches and new solutions to very difficult problems.

Now, all of us would like to do everything that we can do to eliminate hunger in this country. We would like to eliminate disease in this country. We would like to eliminate child abuse completely in this country. All of us agree to that. But we have a significant problem. How do we continue to provide the money for all of the thousands of programs out there, whether they are child care programs, breakfast programs, lunch programs, after school programs, child abuse programs, or whatever they may be?

So the challenge that we have is to come up with innovative solutions to provide the maximum benefit for children throughout America at the lowest